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TECHNICAL REPORT RD-GC-88-38

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPUTER SIMULATION OF A NEW BUS ARBITRATION SCHEME

G. Patton Bradford Guidance & Control Directorate Research, Development, & Engineering Center

DECEMBER 1988





U.S.ARMY MISSILE COMMAND

Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5000

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			on schemes is to		r access to	the b	us by the
various e	lements of	the compute	r system. Arbit	ration must	allow for e	ach ele	ement to have
access to	the bus w	hile, at the	same time, prev	enting any s	ingle elame	at from	m monopolizing
			itration present				-
The arbitration scheme described in this report places the various elements of the system							
on a rotating system of priorities. After the various priorities are set initially (0N-1, where N is the number of system elements) all the priorities are incremented by one on a							
modulo N basis. In this way, each processor will eventually have top priority and be able to							
take possession of the bus if needed.							
In a simulation of this scheme using a random mix of bus demands, the average wait of any							
processor for the bus was very short, generally less than 10 bus cycles ("bus cycle" defined							
in the body of the report.) For simulations in which the bus demand was high (a probability							
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Item 19. Abstract

of requesting the bus of 0.75 and a probability of retaining the bus of 0.75), the average delay was seven cycles.

The simulation program itself is described in detail and the results of various combinations of probabilities are presented.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I must be honest and state right from the beginning that this arbitration scheme is not mine; I did not think of it, and I can in no way lay claim to it. This scheme is the idea of Mr. James Holeman of Systems Dynamics, Inc. During some discussions on the design of an experimental digital signal processing board, Jim presented this idea as a simple, reliable, and robust method for arbitrating access to a common bus between various system boards. This simulation appears to bear out some of his hopes for the design in that it provides for short average delays as well as a relative immunity to system failure due to the failure of system components.

Thanks, Jim. I appreciate it.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	ARBITRATION ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION	2
III.	BUS SIMULATION PROGRAM	3
IV.	SIMULATION RESULTS	4
٧.	CONCLUSIONS	5
APPEN	OIX A. Source Code Listing	A-1
APPEN	OIX B. Results of Runs	R-1

#### I. INTRODUCTION

One problem that continues to face the designer of computer systems in which various system elements must share common resources is the arbitration of access to these resources. In most systems, this comes down to the sharing of a common bus that connects these resources to each other. The question is: how can access to this resource, the bus, be handled in a "fair" manner? That is, how can one arrange for every potential user of the bus to have adequate access to the bus while preventing any one user from monopolizing it? Also, how can this be done in a way that is the least taxing in terms of hardware and software?

The method put forth in this paper for handling this problem is a conceptually simple solution involving a rotating priority system. In this way, all boards at some point would have exclusive, and in some cases non-interruptible, access to the bus. Because the priority rotates, no one individual user of the bus can monopolize it. This scheme is described in the next section.

Following this discussion of the arbitration algorithm is an extensive treatment of the program used to simulate the action of the arbitration scheme. Finally, there is a discussion of the results of a number of runs using different values for the probabilities of requesting the bus and of completing a bus access.

#### II. ARBITRATION ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION

The arbitration scheme itself is conceptually very simple. The N processors, or bus users, are initially assigned priorities of 0 to N-1, each processor receiving a different priority. While no accesses are made to the bus, or, more accurately, no processor releases the bus, the priorities remain the same. However, when a processor obtains and then releases the bus, all processors have their priorities incremented by one on a modulo N basis; that is, the processor with priority 0 goes to priority 1, priority N-2 goes to N-1, and priority N-1 goes to 0. In this way, the highest priority processor, the one with the greatest probability of having had access to the bus now receives the lowest priority. A "fairer" method would have the processor releasing the bus receive the lowest priority; however, this would require some method for doing a wholesale reassignment of priorities, whereas the method described requires only incrementing counters on each processor.

However, once a processor receives the bus, it does not necessarily have non-interruptible access to it; the processor may lose the bus to a processor having higher priority. If this happens, the executing process is blocked, the processor relinquishes the bus, the priorities of all the processors are updated, and the requesting processor with the highest priority is granted the bus. The blocked processor now has a pending bus request that will be answered when its priority again exceeds that of all other requesting processors.

#### III. BUS SIMULATION PROGRAM

In order to develop an understanding as to how this sytem would perform over time, a program was written that will simulate the performance of this type of scheme over a number of iterations. To allow for a degree of variability, different parameters were set up in the form of probabilities: in particular, the probability of a processor failing, of requesting the bus, and of the processor completing its bus access at any particular time. In this manner, different bus loads could be simulated. The basic structure of the simulation is described below. (See Appendix A for the source code listing.)

The processors are represented in the program as a relatively large data structure containing various flags, probabilities, counters, and value—holders. The flags for each process are: ACTIVE, which shows if the processor is healthy; BLOCKED, which is set if the processor has the bus but has been interrupted; WAITING, which is set if the processor has a bus request which has not been met; and RUNNING, which indicates that the processor has run or is running since the last time update. The probabilities contained in each process structure are those of failure (PROB FAIL), making a bus request (PROB REQUEST), and of completing a bus request on any given cycle (PROB COMPLETE). The counters contain information on the cycles used in the present block, wait, or bus access (PRESENT BLOCK, PRESENT WAIT, and PRESENT RUN), the total number of cycles spent in blocks, waits, or bus accesses (TOTAL BLOCK, TOTAL WAIT, NUL. BLOCKS, NUM WAITS, and NUM RUNS). The longest of any individual block, wait, or run is also tracked (LONGEST BLOCK, LONGEST WAIT, LONGEST\_RUN). Finally, and perhaps most important to this simulation, is PRIORITY, which contains the processor's present priority.

To begin the simulation each processor structure has its values initialized through the procedure INIT(). The ACTIVE flag is set, the BLOCKED, WAITING, and RUNNING flags are cleared, the counters are cleared, and using the procedure SET PRIORITY(), the priority of each processor is randomly set to an integer value between 0 and N-1 (since in this simulation the processors cannot run or request the bus concurrently, they must instead be polled sequentially.) This random setting of the priorities of the different processors helps to nullify any effects that might occur due to having the processors arranged sequentially by priority. After this, the various probabilities are set. The program allows for this to be done randomly with a default value or with the user specifying the probability for each processor individually. These options allow for the tailoring of the bus loading to one's preference.

The main program itself consists mainly of two large loops. The outer loop determines how many times polling of the processors occurs and the inner loop determines how each processor will act when it is polled. At the begining of the outer loop are print statements that report the status of the system every thousand iterations. At the end of the outer loop is a call to the UPDATE TIME() procedure which updates the counters within each processor structure, incrementing as necessary the number of cycles in the RUN, WAIT, or BLOCK states. The inner loop is where the actual computations that determine processor state are performed. The routine will check the referenced processor's current state and then, based on this state and the probabilities associated with this processor, the next state of the processor is determined.

At the beginning of this inner loop, the processor under consideration may be in one of two main states, either healthy and functioning (ACTIVE=1) or "dead" (ACTIVE=0), having failed at some point in the past. If the processor is dead, then the program continues on to the next processor. Figures 1 through 3 are flow charts of this portion of the program.

On the other hand, if the processor has not failed, it will be in one of four states as it enters processing. It will either be the present bus master, it will be blocked (it had the bus at one time but was preempted before it could complete the transaction), it will be waiting (the processor has requested the bus, but has not yet received it), or it could have no pending requests. Each of these states requires that different actions be taken and each have different alternatives to choose. Each of these alternatives is chosen through the use of the probabilities assigned to each processor and the actions of a random number generator. Any time the value received from the random number generator is less than the value of the assigned probability, the action associated with that probability will be performed.

The first state to be looked at is that of the processor being the present bus master. This is perhaps the simplest of all the states to process. The first check is to see if the processor fails at this point. If it does, then its ACTIVE flag is cleared, BUS MASTER and PRIORITY are set to FREE, and UPDATE PRIORITY() is called. If the processor remains active, then RUN PROCESS() is called to see if the processor will complete its access this cycle. The program then continues on to the next processor.

RUN PROCESS() is a very simple routine itself. If the PROB COMPLETE associated with this process is greater than some random number, then the bus is freed again. UPDATE PRIORITIES() is then called.

With the next three states, BLOCKED, WAITING, and NO\_PENDING\_REQUESTS, again the possibility of processor failure is checked first, and, with these three, the processing is the same. If the processor does fail, ACTIVE is cleared, LONGEST\_WAIT, LONGEST\_BLOCK, TOTAL\_WAIT, and TOTAL\_BLOCK are all updated with respect to PRESENT\_WAIT and PRESENT\_BLOCK. The flags WAITING and BLOCKED are then cleared.

The next check made on processors in one of these three states is whether or not it will make a request for the bus. For the BLOCKED and WAITING states this is automatic. For the NO PENDING\_REQUESTS state, this is checked through its PROB\_REQUEST value. If there is no request, the program goes on to the next processor.

Next, having made a request for the bus, the priority of the requester is compared to that of the present bus master, that is, to the value stored in the global variable PRIORITY. If the priority of the requester is the lesser of the two values, then the program continues on with the next processor; otherwise, the requesting processor becomes the new bus master. If the bus is free, then this is accomplished by writing the processor's number into BUS MASTER, its present priority into PRIORITY, and its BLOCKED and WAITING flags cleared. After this, RUN PROCESS() is called to see if it will complete its access in this cycle. The program then continues on to the next processor.

If, on the other hand, the bus is not free when the requester receives the bus, the old bus master must be blocked. This is accomplished by setting the bus master's BLOCKED flag, incrementing its NUM\_BLOCKS, and calling UPDATE\_PRIORITIES(). The requester is then given control of the bus as in the previous paragraph.

After the program has stepped through all N of the processors, it is considered to have completed one BUS CYCLE. At the end of each bus cycle, the routine UPDATE TIME() is called in order to keep track of the amount of time spent by each processor, either on the bus, waiting for initial access to the bus, or in a blocked state. The routine looks at each processor data structure, looking at what flags are set, and updating the appropriate times. First, it looks at the RUNNING flag. If it is set and the processor is the present bus master, then PRESENT RUN is incremented and LONGEST RUN is updated. If it is not the bus master, then PRESENT RUN is cleared. In any case, the RUNNING flag is cleared. Next, UPDATE TIME() checks the BLOCKED and WAITING flags and updates either PRESENT WAIT or PRESENT BLOCK, respectively. Finally, the routine sets the RUNNING flag of the PRESENT BUS master.

At this point, there may exist some confusion over why UPDATE TIME() clears and then sets the RUNNING flag while the other flags are left alone. The reason is that, with the structure of the simulation, once a processor is put on WAIT or BLOCK, it remains there until the next bus cycle. On the other hand, if it is running, it may be blocked any time during the present cycle or some future cycle. In order to keep track of the amount of time some processor had the bus, it is assumed that the processor keeps the bus for one entire cycle if it had the bus for any portion of that cycle. For this reason, when a processor is blocked, the RUNNING flag is not reset until UPDATE TIME() is called at the end of the cycle. In this way, all the processors that ran during the cycle get credit for that cycle, and by setting the bus master's RUNNING flag again, it will get credit the next time the update routine is called at the end of the next cycle.

After the outer loop has run the required number of iterations (10,000 in this simulation), the results are tallied. The total amount of time spent running in a WAIT or in a BLOCK is tallied, as well as the total number of times processors were put in a RUN, WAIT, or BLOCK. From these, average times may be computed. Also reported are the longest times in any state.

#### IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

Appendix B gives the results of a number of runs. The first three use random values for the probabilities of failure, request, and completion. (The intermediate results from the first run are presented in order to give the reader an idea of what is displayed during a run.) As can be seen from these, although the total times and longest times spend in a WAIT or BLOCK state have considerable variation from one run to another, the average time in a WAIT or BLOCK remains consistently small, generally less than 10 cycles. In addition, the total number of cycles in which the bus was active remained relatively constant.

The rest of the runs presented represent situations that range from a very heavily loaded bus (a high probability of requesting the bus along with a low probability of completing an access) to a very lightly loaded bus (a low probability of request with a high probability of completion.) As can be seen on the heavy loading run, although the number of cycles the bus is is use increases by about half over the random loading, the amount of time in a bLOCK or WAIT more than doubles. However, the average time spent in a BLOCK or WAIT is still under 10 cycles - the same as with the random case. The next case, high probability for both request and completion, is perhaps the ideal bus loading situation. Bus utilization is more than doubled over any other case. In addition, the average WAIT and BLOCK is down to one.

The case in which both the probabilities are low (a request is not likely, but if there is one, it is not likely to complete on any given cycle) is about average when compared to the other cases. The average delays are in the same range as all the others, under 10 cycles, and because there are fewer requests, the bus is used less often than the higher request situations, even the one with the high blocking rate. The final situation, with low request probability and high completion probability, has the lowest rate of blocking and waiting, though not much lower than the high request/high complete. Again, because the request rate is low, bus utilization is dropped.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

This system of bus arbitartion using a rotating priority scheme appears to be an effective and efficient method of handling bus arbitration. Average delays are consistently low in all cases tested; failure of individual system elements appears to have little effect on overall system performance; and the conceptual simplicity of the system should allow for relatively efficient implementations in hardware.

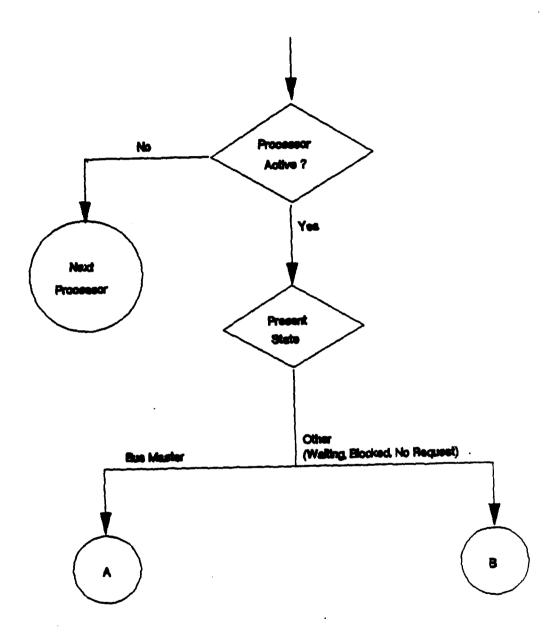


Figure 1. Flowchart for inner processing loop.

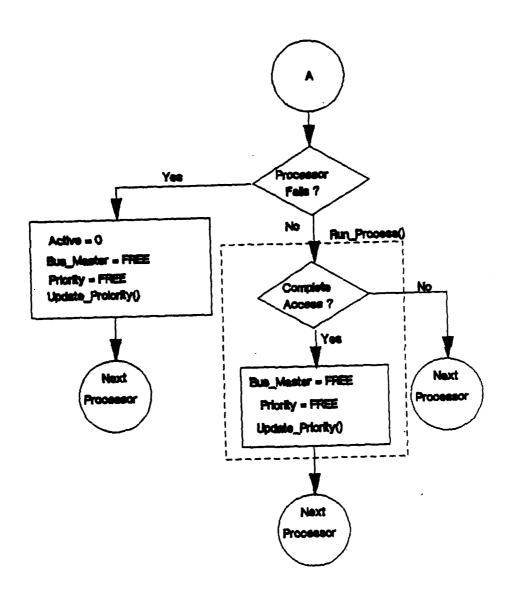


Figure 2. Flowchart of bus master processing loop.

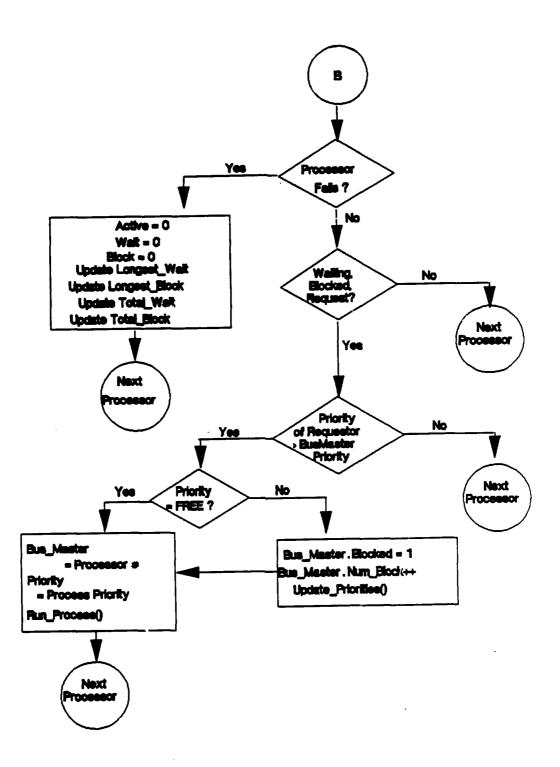


Figure 3. Flowchart of other (waiting, blocked, no request) processing loop.

# APPENDIX A SOURCE CODE LISTING

```
Line# Source Line
                                                                                 Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
            /* #include "include.h" */
     いています。これはいいないのでは、これではないないできないというないのできない。
            firelude estate.h
                      global.h - Defines such things as the structure for the processes
             Stef ine MAPROCESSORS 10
Stef ine MAILCOPS 10000
            struct Process
                      cher Active; /* flee showing whether or not the processor */
cher Slocked: /* her falled processing but was interrupted */
cher latting: /* Hes requested bus but hes not received it */
cher Running; /* Hes run during this cycle */
                      short int Priority; /* Present priority of processor */
                     float Problemi: /* The probability that this processor will fell */
float Problemies: /* The probability that a bus request will be */
float ProbComplete: The probability that, if the processor has */
the bus, it will complete this cycle */
                      int Presentitum; /* The number of non-interrespeed cycles posses
int Longestitum; /* The longest time spent in any single run */
                                                                               or non-interrespited cycles possessing
Line# Source Line
                                                                                 Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
                                                   /* The total amount of time this processor has had the bus // The quader of times the processor has requested and received the bus //
                      int TotalRun:
                      int Humbure;
                                                                  value for the rendom number generator */
Present owner of the bus */
Priority or owner of the bus */
m of localing; */
m of localing; */
                  End of global.h */
                      Random() - function to produce a Random number x, 0 \ll x < 1.
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Rine to produce the rendom numbers */
                   (25173L * Seed + 13849L) # 65536;
( ((((ost)Seed)/(((ost)65536));
              UpdateTime() - Update the weit times on all the process
                                            Nicrosoft C Compiler Version 4.00
 Line# Source Line
        yold UpdateTime()
             short int i:
             for (1=0; 1<0LNPROCESSORS; 1++)
                  toteirun for all the processors.
                                            blocked or waiting process */
        UpdateTime Local Symbols
                                       Offset
                                                 Register
              SetPriority() - Do random initialization of priorities
                                            Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
  Line# Source Line
        yold SetPriority()
             cher [sSet [MUMPROCESSORS]; int i, X;
             for (1=0; 1<0UMPROCESSORS; 1++)
                          v(i) Priority = x:
        ) /* End of SetPriority() */
SetPriority Local Symbols
```

```
UpdatePriority() - Update the priorities on all the processors
         yold UpdatePriority()
              short int i;
              for (1=0; 1≪NAPROCESSORS; 1++)
                    /" To undate the priority of each processor, increment each and
                   ProcArray[i].Priority = (**ProcArray[i].Priority) % MUMPROCESSORS;
        > /* End of UpdatePriority() */
UpdatePriority Local Symbols
                                                Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
  Line# Source Line
ProbComplete . . . . .
         init()
                       int i;
                          dom number generator */
= 0x/c; / DOS call for Get Time */
g int}outrege.h.dl;
              (* Set the initial priorities for all of the processors */
  Lines Source Line
                                                Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
              for (1=0; i< NAMPROCESSORS; i++)
                                                 /* Processor is functional*/
```

```
for the various probabilities */
                                                                       guitch ((int)Answer)
                                                                                                        Case |R|:
Case (r) =0; (-0.00PROCESSORS; (++)
                                                                                                                                                             printf("Probability of failure %ds %f\n",i,ProcArray(i].ProbFail);
                                                                                                                                                                           = 0; f < MAPROCESSORS; f++)
                                                                                                                                                           printf("\nProbability of failure for processor %d: ",i);
bcanf("%f" Evalue;
ProcArray(i].Probfail = Value;
                                                                                                                                printf("\n");
breek;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
                                      Source Line
Lines
                                                                                                                      printi("Dumb.
goto picki;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Very dust. Try again. \n");
                                                                         print("\");

Procedure;

Proce
                                                                         guitch ((int)Answer)
                                                                                                         case |R|:
case |r|:
for(i=0; i<#UMPROCESSORS; i++)
                                                                                                                                                           ProcArray(i].ProbRequest = Random():
printf("Probability of Bus Request %d: %f\n",i,ProcArray(i].ProbRequest);
                                                                                                                                                                              = 0; i < MAPROCESSORS; i++)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     est for processor %d ",i);
                                                                                                                                          ringf("\n");
                                                                                                                               Freek;

and;

printf("Dumb. Very dumb. Try again.\n");

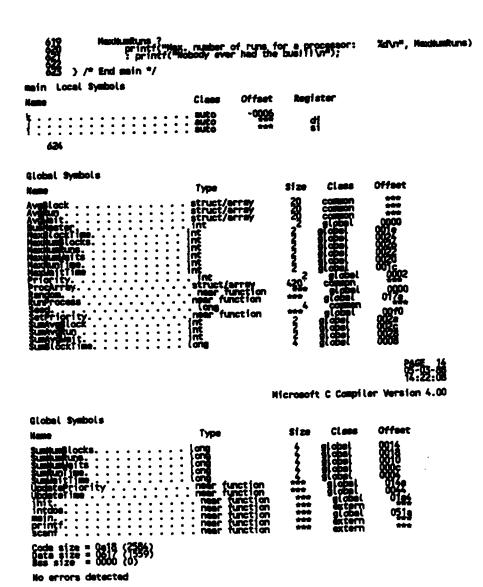
goto pick2;
                                                                              printf("\n");
                                                                                              Problemiets of the probabilities of completing a bus access/n");
int[ a completing a bus access/n");
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                                                                             guitch ((int)Answer)
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农:93:88
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```
Line# Source Line
                                                             Micmosft C Compiler Version 4.00
                                for(i=0; i<#UNPROCESSORS; i++)
                                    ProcArray[i].ProbComplete = Random():
printf("Probability of completion X81 Xf\n",i,ProcArray[i].ProbComplete);
                                        = 0: i < MAPROCESSORS; i++)
                                    printf(")probability of completion for processor %d: ",i);
procedures([].Procedure = Velue;
                              orintf("Dumb. Very dumb. Try again.\n");
soto picks;
           ) /" End of init() */
init Local Symbols
           min()
                  register int i,j; int k;
                  init()io; idexLoops; (+)
                        k= (iti x 1000))
 Line# Source Line
                                                             Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
                             printf("%d | terstions\n" | );
for (|=0; |<dlored_istrate; |++)
    printf("leit Cycles: %d \tRun cycles: %d\n"
    printf("leit Cycles: %d \tRun cycles: %d\n"
    printf("\n\n");</pre>
printf("\n\n");
                         for (j = 0; j < NUMPROCESSORS; j++)
                              if (!ProcArray(]].Active)
/* Processor is deed. Do nothing */
                                   jf (Random() < ProcArray[j].ProbFeil)</pre>
                                        printf(" Processor %d failed at time %d\n", j, i); Prockeray()].Active " 0:
                                                      Bus Hester feiture */
                                   /* Check to see if process will complete during
```

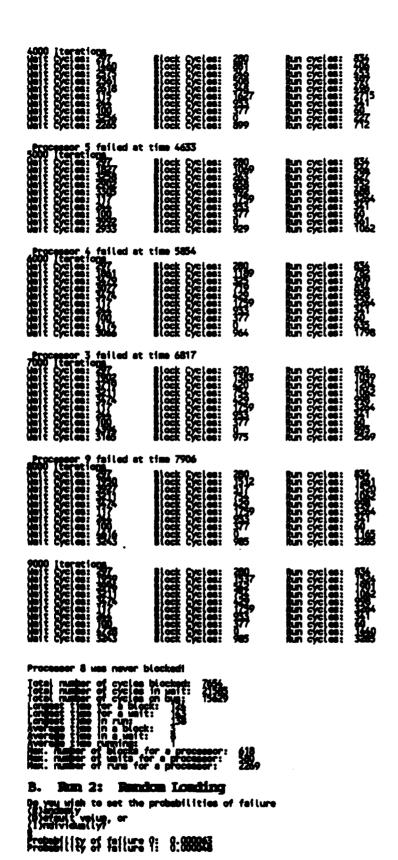
```
this bus cycle. Else continue to hold bus. */
                               RurProcess(ProcArray[j].ProbComplete);
continue:
                                                                 or waiting
                                                         Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
      Source Line
                                                        eer block and and wait
                                             2. No request to nothing.
                           if (Rendom() < ProcArray(j].Probfeil)</pre>
                           > The processor just feiled. Mark as deed. */
                                 /* else do nothing */
continue;
/* end of failed precessor */
                                 Else it did not die. Check and see if it is weiting,
blocked, of mating a law request;
rockersy() = rockersy() = rocked ||
Random() = rockersy()) = rockedwest
                                                           Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
Line# Source Line
                                                  mes for bue. See if it will get it */
/[]].Priority > Priority)
                                                                      Block and replace old
                                                                              ProbComplete);
```

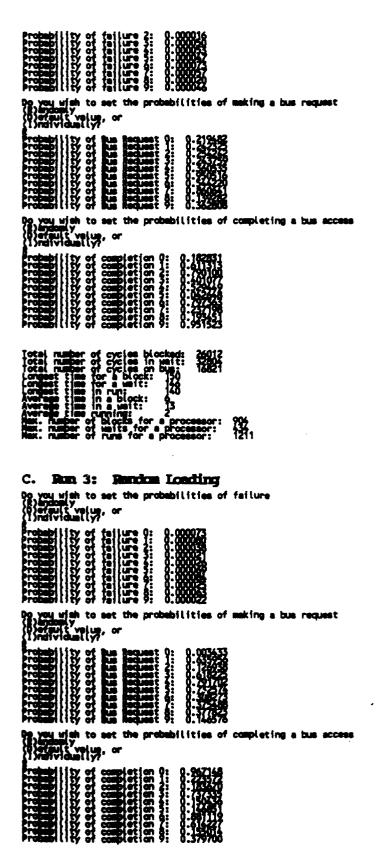
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MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              bComplete);
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
                                                                     Source Line
Line#
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     d && !ProcArray[j].Waiting)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          \mathcal{R}^{0} never had the bus!\n", i);
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             10.55.15
10.55.16
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        Microsoft C Compiler Version 4.00
             Line# Source Line
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       number of weits for a processor:
```

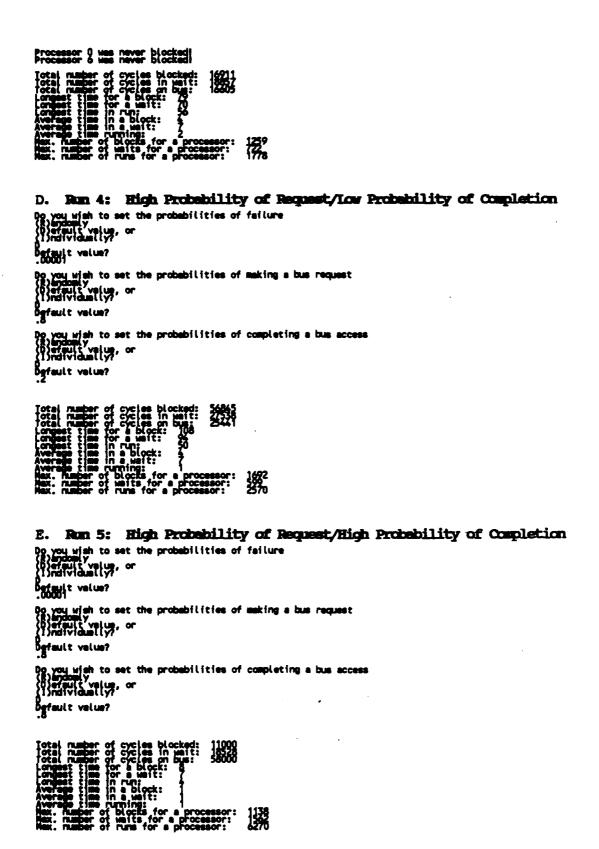


## APPENDIX B RESULTS OF RUNS

A. Run 1: Remains Londing  90 you wish to set the probabilities of failure (8) property value, or (8) individually, or
Trenant to the second s
Do you wish to set the probabilities of making a bus request (8) and it value, or (1) and ividually,
Do you wish to set the probabilities of completing a bus access a specially value, or individually?
republity of completion 0: 0.114318 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.276013 republity of completion 0: 0.27603 republity of completion 0: 0.27603 republity of completion 0: 0.27603
Trocessor 7 failed at time 697  Trocessor 7 failed at time 697
Processor 6 failed at time 1436 Processor 0 failed at time 1435 5000 [ferations.
######################################







F. Run 6: Low Probability of Request/Low Probability of Completion Do you wish to set the probabilities of failure (f) around y (f) around y (i) around y (i) around y (i) around y (i) around y (ii) around y (ii) around y (ii) around y (iii) around y (ii Default velue? Do you wish to set the probabilities of making a bus request (E) around y velue, or [] individually, Default value? Do you wish to set the probabilities of completing a bus access (f) aroundly value, or []) ndividually? Befault volue? Total number of cycles blocked: 42550
Jotal number of cycles in unit: 21597
Jotal number of cycles in unit: 21597
Jotal number of cycles on bus: 19677
Longest time for a unit: 35
Longest time for a unit: 35
Longest time in run;
Average time in a block: 5
Average time in a unit: 3
Average time in a unit: 3
Average time running:
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A Default value? Do you wish to set the probabilities of making a bus request (R)sproperty (D)strault value, or [])ndividually? Do you wish to set the probabilities of completing a bus access (R)andomly or ())ersuit value, or ())ndividually? Default value?

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